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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 01 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 01

Belleville District Library Director Mary Jo Suchy received an early Christmas surprise that will continue all year with a 3.7 percent raise.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 01

The Christmas Concert by music students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has become an annual tradition with the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club.

See page 6.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 73, No. 01

More than 100 families and 300 children were able to celebrate the holiday this year with food and toys provided by the Inkster Legends of Basketball Holiday Raffle.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 01

Workers recently began a city-wide water meter replacement program to install new meters and replace second water meters used exclusively for outdoor use.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 01

Tajana Raukar, owner of Ice Dreams Sculptures, will carve the largest ice sculpture during the Jan. 10-12 ice festival this year.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 135, No. 01

Off-duty Romulus police officers along with city employees delivered donated toys and meals to area families Dec. 23.

See page 4.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 01

Wayne welcomed a new officer to the police force last month when Charles Woody was officially sworn in during the Dec. 17 meeting of the Wayne City Council members.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 01

Both the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army on Venoy in Westland and nearby Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center maintain outdoor Little Free Libraries.

See page 2.

Residents question proposed Downs development

It's the traffic.

That was the consensus of concern expressed at a recent Northville Downtown Development Authority committee meeting regarding the proposed development of property at the Northville Downs site downtown.

> *Northville doesn't want to hear that because it's not what we've been, but I think it's a reality we have to look at.*

Chris Alexander, senior development director for Watermark Residential, the company planning to construct luxury apartments and businesses on a 9.5 acre north section of the 50 acre racetrack site, attended the meeting in an effort to keep city officials and residents informed regarding the latest designs and plans for the area. He said he understood that the concern of residents and officials was the appropriate use of the property in the community.

The current plans include a complex fronting Cady Street in the city.

He said he recognized the desire of residents who invested a great deal of their personal wealth in a Northville home to protect that investment and their questioning the construction of apartments or multi-family projects in the community. Watermark Residential has built more than 40 projects with about 10,000 apartments since 2010, Alexander said. He said that the product his company can bring to Northville is trending across the country.

"Luxury apartments are not a bad thing; that's why we're in this business," Alexander said. "I've talked to several Northville residents who want to live in this kind of arrangement, which offers them flexibility, little or no maintenance, while having access to onsite amenities like a workout room, pool and a luxurious clubhouse that those who work from home can work out of."

Local business owner and Northville resident Jim Long was strongly opposed to the concept. He said such units are not "in our city's DNA."

Long alleged that the current planning consultant for the city Sally Elminger is "out of touch" with the community. He claimed that data Elminger presented at an earlier planning commission meeting was from Plymouth and Novi and was not relevant to Northville. Long questioned building 300 apartment units on the property and said that the data that had been presented in support of the plan was "perceived" not "real" data.

Shawn Riley, a member of the DDA, said he supported the plan as a possible stepping stone for seniors or empty nesters who can transfer home ownership to apartment or condominium living.

"Northville doesn't want to hear that because it's not what we've been, but I think it's a reality we have to look at," Riley, a Realtor, said.

The current plan includes a north/south street through the development, a new east street and a connection to Town Square. The plan also currently includes underground parking for the luxury apartment units.

Death of Ted Scott mourned in area

The death of former Westland Fire Chief, Wayne County Safety Director and Wayne County Community College Trustee and Board Chairman Theodore (Ted) Scott is being mourned throughout the area.

Mr. Scott, 84, died Dec. 27 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia with his family surrounding him. He had suffered a cardiac incident while leaving a holiday party the previous week and was revived at the scene by another former Westland Fire Chief, Mark Neal, and other retired fire department and city employees. He was transported to the hospital, but he did not survive.

Mr. Scott, for whom the western campus of Wayne County Community College District is named, was born Sept. 28, 1935 in Racine Ohio, the son of George and Marie Scott. Mr. Scott spent more than 26 years of his career with the Westland Fire Department and retired in 1985 after serving as chief of the department for five years. He also served on the YMCA board of directors for 10 years. When an opening on the Wayne County Community College board of trustees occurred in 1989, his life-long interest in education

> *I truly believe that you could look for a hundred years and never find a better person than Ted Scott.*

spurred him to pursue the position where he continued to serve for another decade. He became chairman of the college board of trustees after only one year and continued as chair from 1995 until 1999, a transformative time for the college. Mr. Scott also served as chairperson the Academic/Student Affairs Standing Committee in 1994. During his tenure with the college, he pushed to implement far-reaching changes credited for the success and exemplary reputation the college has earned.

According to college Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivery, Mr. Scott's leadership and dedication were integral in the success of the college and were an invaluable contribution to education for thousands of area residents. In 2017 the entire Belleville campus was renamed in recognition of his contributions to the educational environment throughout Wayne County. In a moving tribute to him, Ivery spoke about Mr. Scott's leadership and character and said that without Mr. Scott's involvement, he had doubts that the college could have survived.

"I truly believe that you could look for a hundred years and never find a better person than Ted Scott," Ivery said at the dedication. Ivery credited Mr. Scott's actions and bold leadership strategies for the expansion of programming at the college and the increased enrollment.

"His insight and leadership was invaluable and truly transformative," Ivery said.

Mr. Scott is survived by his wife, Sharon, who has served as treasurer of the Wayne County College Board of Trustees since her election in 2008. She also served on the Wayne-Westland community Schools Board of Education and the Westland City Council from 1992 through 2000.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Scott is survived by the couple's three daughters, Sonya (Ken) Kowalski; Linda Moore and Rachel Scott. He is also survived by his grandchildren,

Ted Scott

Scotty Moore, Matthew (Lisa) Moore, Megan Moore, Grace Kowalski, and Seth Scott along with great-grandchildren, Noah Moore and Caroline Moore.

Funeral services took place for Mr. Scott Monday at St. John's Episcopal Church where the couple was active. A special service officiated by the Rev. Henny Grossoehme and the Rev. Tom Wilson also celebrated and memorialized his life.

Entombment was planned for Cadillac Memorial Gardens West. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to St. John's Episcopal Church.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Uht Funeral Home.

Ford Road 'boulevard' will take 2-3 years to complete

Drivers hoping for the much-needed traffic improvements along Ford Road in Canton Township will continue to wait as the start date for the project is now estimated as 2021 or 2022.

The 2.5 mile boulevard will separate east and westbound traffic on Ford Road and eliminate the current left-turn lane, a change designed to improve safety along the stretch of roadway that Township Supervisor Pat Williams has called "one of the most-dangerous roads in southeastern Michigan."

Canton Township officials met with representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation, (MDOT) last month in an effort to determine the timeline for the project.

Williams said the design phase of the boulevard is scheduled to be complete this year while actual construction won't begin for another year, or possibly two.

Following the design phase, officials said, the state will begin to acquire property along the affected area of Ford Road to accommodate the widening on both the north and sound sides.

Officials denied claims that construction would close the road to one lane for more than a year and said that contingency plans to move traffic through the area smoothly would be a consideration in the construction planning and schedule. To that end, state officials said that a communication plan to keep businesses and local government informed of the plans would be in place and include public meetings throughout the process along with flyers, email blasts and social media along with websites to assist in communication with residents.

Williams said the project would certainly cause some

See **Ford Road,** page 6

Belleville - Canton - Westland

Read on

Little Free Libraries prove popular with readers throughout community

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

When Dick Schmidt of Plymouth became a Rotarian, he wanted to serve his community both locally and worldwide.

Schmidt, a sales representative, found the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.'s work inspiring. A Rotary focus is literacy, so club members researched the Little Free Library initiative.

"Supporting reading was a natural for us. The idea behind the Little Free Libraries is to put books close to residents and make it easy and free to get a book and read."

The book-sharing concept isn't new, although the Little Free Library initiative has taken off. Neighbors, clubs, churches, businesses and others have set up the small libraries with the idea of sharing books for children, teens and adults.

Plymouth A.M. Rotarians bought, decorated and installed a Little Free Library at the Community Financial Credit Union on Harvey Street in Plymouth. Club member Jeanne Knopf DeRoche, also of Plymouth, noted the grant support from the credit union.

The same concept - of an enclosed case filled with books in a public area that allows people to pick a book, read it and keep it or return it for someone else to enjoy - has been employed by other groups and organizations.

A local take on the national movement is in Romulus, where the city public library partnered with the Rotary Club and artists to provide four "Read Boxes" of books in four city parks, said library Director Patty Braden.

Last May, the Belleville Rotary Club unveiled its first Little Free Library in Victory Park next to the gazebo.

Schmidt said in Plymouth the Rotarians stocked the library initially and were pleased to see it used so much.

A later presentation on the Mariners Inn in Detroit at the Plymouth A.M. Rotary prompted members to add a Detroit location at that nonprofit, which works to help homeless people and those with addiction.

"One of our members checks it regularly to keep it clean and make sure the books are appropriate," Schmidt said. The CFCU staff helps as well.

The Mariners site in Detroit is also well-used and popular.

"We stocked this library with books. Those books were taken quickly. We then refilled the library on a regular basis. That library now is seeing books being added by neighbors in the area. We are pleased to see this library starting to be self-sustaining."

On Deer Street in Plymouth, Living Peace Church members put a Little Free Library on their church lawn some three years ago.

"When I read about free libraries I thought our church would be a perfect location. Our goal was to begin with books of peace and justice issues. It did start that way but of course as books are swapped in and out that has changed. It was a wonderful project where everyone in the church participated in some way or another," said Becky Copenhaver of Living Peace Church.

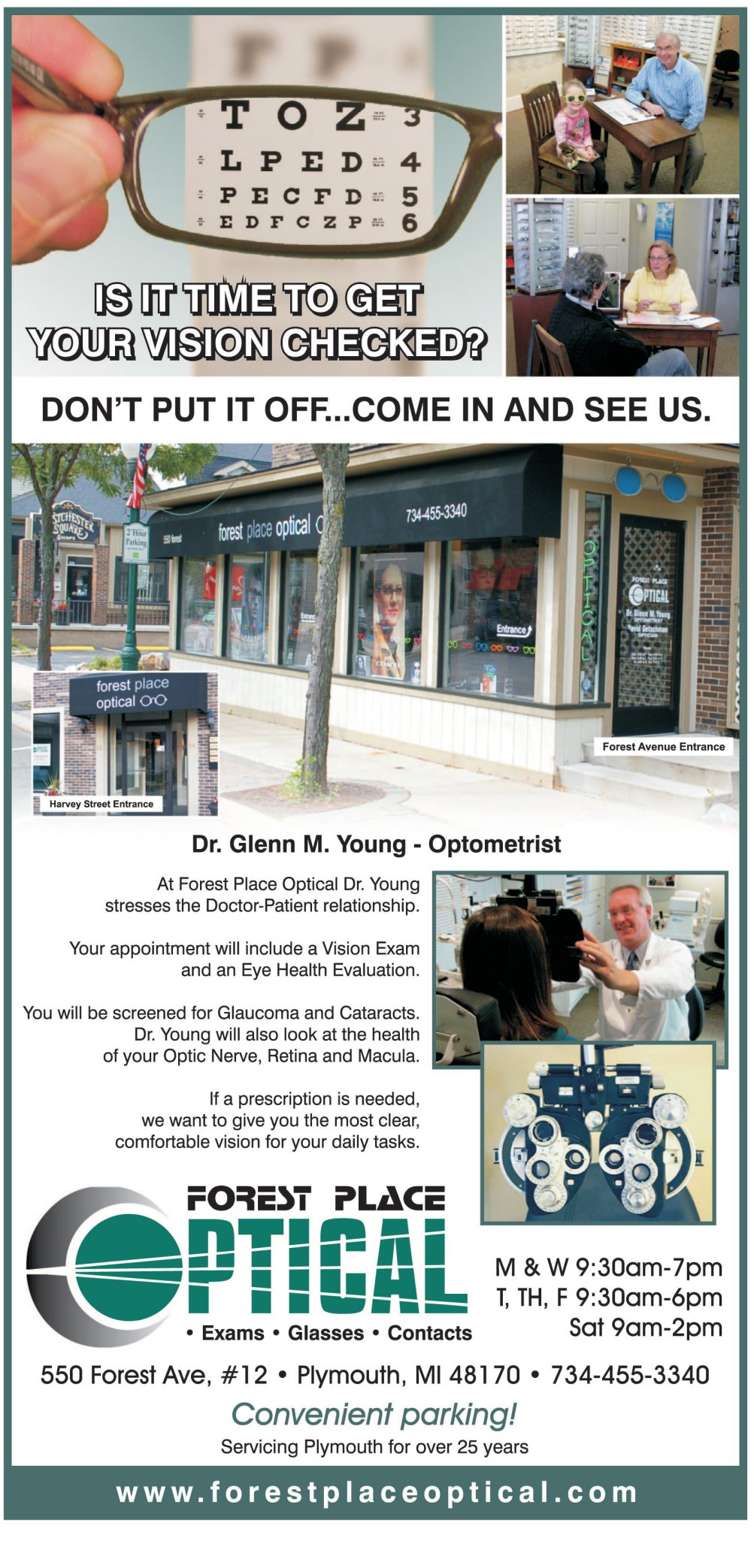
Copenhaver, a Canton Township resident, added, "One member crafted the boxes - one for adults and one for children. We all helped paint them and of course donating books to begin with. It has been such a successful project as the turnover of books is amazing and our upper floor is being stocked with books that I'll switch out depending on season or any new books we get. We wanted to advance literacy in the community. We are very proud of the boxes."

Little Free Libraries are popular attractions throughout the entire area, maintained by Rotary clubs, the YMCA and churches.

Both the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army on Venoy in Westland and nearby Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center also maintain outdoor Little Free Libraries which get regular use. The Norwayne Community Citizens Council supports the Jefferson-Barns effort.

The website www.littlefreelibrary.org has background, including a map to locate Little Free Library sites. It notes some aren't registered with the organization, founded by the late Todd H. Bol over 10 years ago and based in Hudson, WI.

The worldwide Little Free Library effort has garnered support by businesses as well as the American Library Association.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NORTHVILLE - PLYMOUTH

Meter replacement under way in City of Northville

The New Year will bring some changes to homes throughout the City of Northville.

Workers recently began a citywide water meter replacement program to install new water meters and replace second water meters used exclusively for outdoor use, such as for in-ground lawn sprinkler systems.

"The majority of water meters in the city are 20 years old or older and have reached the end of their projected life cycle," said DPW Director Loyd Cureton. "Our department personnel will manage and work with the contractor and residents to ensure the work is done properly and efficiently. These new water meters meet the State of Michigan 'no lead' requirements and are guaranteed accurate for 20 years."

> *These new water meters meet the State of Michigan 'no lead' requirements and are guaranteed accurate for 20 years.*

Employees from Ferguson Waterworks and Utility Metering Solutions will perform the installations. A worker will need to enter a house or business to replace the meter and upgrade the wiring. This step in the process takes about 30 minutes to one hour, a city spokesperson said. The worker will also replace the touch pad currently located on an outside wall with a new meter interface unit (MIU). For security measures, the vendor's workers will carry identification and drive vehicles with the company name visible.

Members of the city council approved a $622,000 loan from the city General Fund to the Water and Sewer Fund with 2.5 percent interest rate for seven years. The funds will be applied to the total cost of $859,786, with the balance coming from the Water and Sewer Fund reserves.

Letters were mailed to residents announcing the water meter replacement program, which is expected to take four to five months to complete. For more detailed information about the water meter installation, visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the City of Northville website.

Plymouth Ice Festival will feature 20-block sculpture this year

Again this year, Tajana Raukar will be a big deal at the Plymouth Ice Festival.

Raukar, the owner of Ice Dreams Sculptures, will carve the largest ice sculpture in Kellogg Park sponsored by Michigan First Credit Union.

Raukar, a world champion, will carve 20 blocks of ice, each about 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide into the large work of art-exactly what she will be carving remained a secret at press time, but rumors indicated it would certainly have something to do with the Red Wings.

Raukar is used to working in subzero temperatures and keeps her studio in Plymouth at about 9 degrees so she can maintain the integrity of the ice while she works.

Professional carvers from Ice Dreams will be creating many of the sculptures seen in front of businesses and in the park during the festival this year. The carvers will be busy for more than a week, getting ahead of the number of sculptures than need completed for the festival by working in the studio. The Michigan First Credit Union sculpture, however, will be completed in the park and early visitors can even watch Raukar at work

Raukar first studied to be a chef when arriving in the U.S. from her native Croatia. While learning the fine points of cooking, she discovered how much she enjoyed the sculpting of small fruits and vegetables, and how good she was at it. Those beautiful little baskets made from lemons, flowers sculpted from tomatoes and watermelons led her to try her skill at ice carving and the rest, as they say, is history.

Raukar, like other champions, usually starts with a sketch and transfers her drawing to the ice block, but she would rather just take her chainsaw and let her imagination take over. Raukar is an award-winning champion and has won competitions in Michigan, Ohio, and nearby states. She's won seven championships in Alaska, one for her 25-foot frozen giraffe. She also competes and has won international ice carving events.

Raukar said that sculptures of the size commissioned by Michigan First Credit Union do present some unique challenges but that her years of experience have provided her with techniques to ensure success. She and a team will start on the huge piece early in the week to be sure it is perfect for display Friday.

Michigan First is also the sponsor of the petting farm and pony rides during the festival.

A credit union spokesman noted that the Ice Festival is a great way to demonstrate the Michigan First commitment to the community, prompting their involvement and sponsorships.

This is the second year Michigan First has sponsored the petting farm, pony rides and huge sculpture.

"We really appreciate them, and all our sponsors," noted James Geitzen of JAG entertainment, which produces the festival. "Many people do not realize this is a totally community-sponsored event. We couldn't do this without the support of businesses and it is a real testament to the importance of this event to the community."

The huge 20-block Michigan First Credit Union sponsored sculpture at the 2019 Plymouth Ice Festival was also carved by champion Tajana Raukar of Ice Dreams and drew crowds last year.

Hockey classes set to begin

Registration for the next Learn to Play Hockey sessions at the Plymouth Cultural Center is now under way. The classes, which are an introduction to hockey programs intended for players 4 to 9 years of age, will begin Jan. 4.

The program includes seven skating sessions and will continue through Feb. 23. The cost per student is $85.

All sessions take place at the Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer, Plymouth.

Full equipment is required and includes athletic supporter with cup for boys or pelvis protectors for girls, shin guards, hockey socks, hockey pants, elbow pads, shoulder pads, jersey, unexpired hockey helmet with full face guard, neck guard, gloves, skates and an ice hockey stick.

A limited number of gear sets are available to borrow from the Recreation Department for use during the program and can be reserved on-line when registering.

On-Line Registration is available at https://plymouthwebtrac.net/wbwsc/plymouthwebtrac.wsc/splash.html

First time users must contact the Recreation Office to be set-up with a user id and password. Contact the office by e-mail at recreation@plymouthmi.gov or (734) 455-6620 x 0.

Walk-In Registration will be taken at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department located in the Plymouth Cultural Center Recreation office window hours are 11:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call (734) 455-6620 x 0.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
January 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Offices, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan 48168 to consider rezoning the former fire station property at 48515 7 Mile Rd., Parcel 77 030 99 0007 001 from PROS (Public Recreation, Facilities and Open Space) to R-2 (Single Family Residential).

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans will be available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Tim Zawodny, Chair
Planning Commission

Publish: January 2, 2020

NT0037 - 010220 2.5 x 2.458

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION - Notice of a Public Hearing
January 22, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, January 22, 2020** for the purpose of considering the following: RZ-2019-004; **28430 Beverly** located at 28430 Beverly Road (Parcel ID #80-002-99-0012-000) requesting to rezone 5 acres of property from M-1, Light Industrial to M-T, Industrial Transportation.

The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485. A copy of the proposed requests are available in the Planning Department during regular business hours - Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Questions may be addressed to Carol Maise, City Planner, Department of Public Services, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or at 734-955-4530.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: January 2, 2020

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NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENT TO COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

TO: All interested persons

You are hereby notified that on 02/26/2018, pursuant to MCL 600.4701 et seq, the Northville Township Police Department seized the following described property: 2004 Buick Rendezvous, VIN: 3G5DA03E84S584868 and Eric Pierre Warren was convicted of the crime of Attempted 2nd Degree Home Invasion pursuant to MCL 750.110a(3) and sentenced on May 07, 2018. To file a claim of interest in this property you must, within twenty-eight (28) days of the first publication of this notice, file claim with the Northville Township Police Department at 41600 West Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168, Telephone No. (248) 349-9400. Failure to file a written claim will result in the forfeiture of the seized item(s) to the seizing policy agency in accordance to law.

NT0038 - 010220 2.5 x 1.696

Belleville - Romulus

Holiday surprise

When officers from the Romulus Police Department learned Dec. 21 that Detroit Thermal Local UAW 845 had more than 20 Christmas dinners available to donate to local families, and that another local business had donated 60 brand new toys to the city, they wasted no time in finding families to help. City officials immediately contacted Romulus Community Schools elementary principals who, although they were on break, quickly located families in need of meals and toys to brighten their holidays. On Monday, Dec. 23, off-duty Romulus police officers, including Sgt. Rodger Salwa, Sgt. Matthew Kroll, Sgt. Eric Harris, Sgt. Nicole Harris and Linsey Green from the records bureau along with city staff members banded together to deliver meals and toys to local families who were overjoyed to receive the surprise gifts.

Library director receives raise, standing ovation

Belleville District Library Director Mary Jo Suchy received an early Christmas surprise that will continue all year.

During the Dec. 10 meeting of the library board, Suchy received top marks on her annual evaluation along with a 3.7 percent raise and a standing ovation.

Board members were asked to evaluate Suchy's performance during the year on a scale of one through six. Her scores, according to Linda Priest, chair of the board personnel committee, were above average in all categories as rated by all board members.

"We took it very seriously," Priest said.

Suchy's salary increase from $81,000 to $83,007 was approved by a unanimous vote of the board members who then stood and applauded her performance for the year..

The 3.7 percent increase was an average of the rating scores by the board members, Priest explained. Other library employees will see 2.5 percent salary increases.

Suchy, in turn, stood and applauded her staff during her portion of the meeting.

"I give a standing ovation for my staff. They are so wonderful - flexible and ready to step up and do whatever needs to be done," she said.

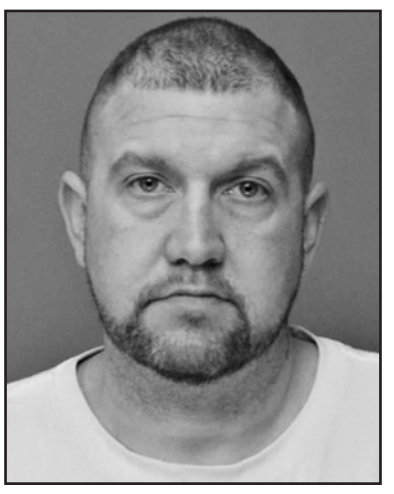
'Porch pirate' is arrested

One porch pirate in Van Buren Township is facing criminal charges following his arrest last week.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has charged Chase Alan Basham, 36,of Belleville, in connection with multiple thefts that occurred between 1 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18. It is alleged that Basham stole personal property from porches of several private residences in Van Buren Township.

He has been charged with: one count of larceny - $200-$1000, seven counts of larceny under $200, and eight counts of package theft, all misdemeanors.

Basham was arraigned Dec. 20 in 34th District Court in Romulus and received $10,000 or 10 percent bond. His pre-trial date was scheduled for today, Jan. 2.



Chase Alan Basham

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59. Auctions

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INKSTER - WAYNE

Winners

Annual charity raffle provides Holiday food, toys for families

More than 100 families and 300 children were able to celebrate the Christmas holiday this year with food and toys provided by the annual Inkster Legends of Basketball Holiday Raffle.

According to founder and Director Fred Smiley, the event again this year at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center was "a smashing success."

Smiley repeatedly thanked all the donors and sponsors, along with the volunteers, who made the event possible again this year.

"I would just like to thank everyone, all those who sold tickets so that we could reach our goal. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped fill the boxes and bags at Kroger along with the staff at the Cherry Hill and Merriman Kroger store," he said.

Smiley said the generosity of the community was overwhelming this year and wanted to express his gratitude to businesses that contributed food to help feed the volunteers while they were working on preparing the gift boxes.

"Dunkin' Donuts in Wayne and Domino's Pizza in Westland, People's Bakery in Detroit, Better Maid Potato Chips in Detroit, S & F Foods in Romulus, Starbucks in Westland, Beverly Hills Pies, Hungry Howie's in Garden City, and Pepsico, along with Captain Hays in Inkster and Walls Fish and Chicken in Wayne," Smiley said.

"Support for the event has grown beyond Inkster to the entire area and we just want to thank them all," he added.

State Rep. Jewell Jones and his team again did the toy shopping for the more than 300 children helped by the raffle. Dr. Stiles Simmons, superintendent of the Westwood Community Schools and coach Jermaine Carter and members of the Robichaud High School basketball team helped with the packing and loading.

Smiley said that the foster grandparents helped with the registration and organization and Al Backus and his staff at the Booker Dozier center had everything ready for the event when they arrived.

"I just want to thank them all," Smiley said, "along with U-Haul in Inkster for allowing us to use the truck and the storage space."

Smiley said he also owed a special thanks this year to his daughter, Melissa Smiley, who prepared one of her specialty fruit and vegetable arrangements and displays for the event.

"None of this would be possible without the goodness and grace of God," Smiley said.

Winners of the grand raffle prizes this year included: Detroit Pistons game against the Eastern Conference Champion Milwaukee Bucks at Little Caesars Arena on Feb. 20 and a $50 dinner card at Sports & Social Detroit was Brian Quantz; The Harlem Globetrotter package along with an autographed basketball, head bands plus four tickets on Feb. 1 at Calihan Hall Detroit plus a $50 dinner card at Mr. Mikes Pizza Detroit was Mike Haljer and the two-night stay at the Bayshore Resort was Sam Mims.

State Rep. Jewell Jones and Fred Smiley, founder and president of the Legends of Basketball join in the shopping for toys for 300 children funded by the annual holiday raffle this year.

A special display of fruits and vegetables prepared by Melissa Smiley amazed the volunteers and raffle hopefuls.

Many, many other prizes were also awarded, Smiley said.

"We just want to thank everyone who donated, who helped, who sold or bought tickets. This is really a worthy event and we are able to help a lot of people enjoy the holiday," he added.

On the job

Wayne welcomed a new officer to the police force last month when Charles Woody was officially sworn in during the Dec. 17 meeting of the Wayne City Council members. Woody graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy in November and earned his bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University. Woody will undergo the required training period under the supervision of an experienced officer, according to Police Chief Ryan Strong. Woody's family and friends were on hand to witness his oath of office.

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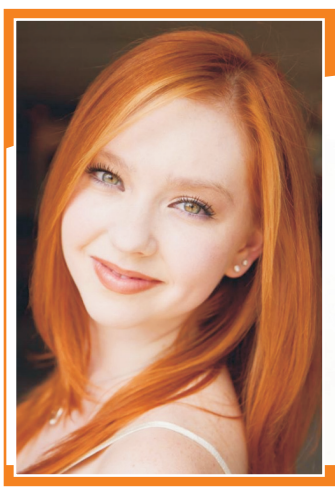
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Seasonal celebration

The Christmas Concert by music students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has become an annual tradition with the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club and this year was no exception. The students filled the Cultural Center just before the holidays and the Festival Singers presented choral selections under the direction of Jennifer Neumann while the Symphony Strings performed holiday and traditional instrumental favorites under the direction of Catherine DePentu. The singers were accompanied by Carole DeHart on the piano. Photo by Sean Rhaesa

Calendar of events

Families Against Narcotics sets Wayne Public Forum

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) will host a Northwest Wayne Public Forum from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6 at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Audiences will hear from family members about how addiction in a loved one impacted their lives and family relationships and how they learned to cope, overcome and ultimately find peace and joy in living.

For more information, access nwwayne@familiesagainstnarcotics.org. or follow on facebook @WayneChapter FAN.

Garden Club to meet

Members of the Country Garden Club of Northville will meet at 11 a.m. Jan. 8 at Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Road in Northville.

The speaker for the meeting will be Cheryl English who will discuss the Autumn Jewels. Light snacks will be served.

For more information, call (248) 202-1518.

Plymouth Ice Festival offers a 'sensory friendly' peek

The 2020 Plymouth Ice Festival, set for Jan. 10 through 12 in downtown Plymouth has teamed with the Miracle League of Plymouth and the Plymouth District Library for a Sensory Friendly Plymouth Ice Festival Evening from 608 p.m. Jan. 9.

The event will feature live ice carving near the library entrance, sensory friendly entertainment inside the library and interactive sensory ice blocks.

The event is free, includes snacks and is open to all special needs families.

For more information contact Kelly Hermann at Kelly@miracleleagueofplymouth.com or at (616) 439-0466.

Photographers to meet

Members of the only 3D photography club in Michigan will meet from 7-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday Jan. 8, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road.

The featured program for the evening will be a presentation of selected sets of member's 3D images.

Following a refreshment break, the second "Open" competition of the season is planned.

Meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org, or call (248) 398-3591.

Township hosts blood drive

Plymouth Township will host a blood drive from 1-7 p.m. Jan. 8 in the board meeting room at township hall, 9955 N.Haggerty Road in Plymouth.

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community, noted Fire Chief Daniel Phillips who is coordinating the effort.

Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime, he added

For more information, contact Phillips at (734) 354-3221

Suite Surrender presented

Inspire Theater will be presenting Suite Surrender: a farce by Michael McKeever at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25, and at 3 p.m. Jan. 12, 19 and 26. The performances will be at the Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road.

The story takes place in in 1942 and two of Hollywood's biggest divas have descended upon the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel -- assistants, luggage, and legendary feud with one another in tow. Everything seems to be in order for their wartime performance until they are somehow assigned to the same suite. Mistaken identities, overblown egos, double entendres, and a lap dog named Mr. Boodles round out this love note to the classic farces of the 30s and 40s.

The play is not suitable for all ages.

For tickets and more information visit https://inspire theatre.ticketleap.com

Elks host Blues performance

Blues @ The Elks takes place from 7 until 10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluessociety.org). There is a $5 donation at the door and dancing is encouraged.

The Kathleen Murray Band will perform Jan. 14. Joining Murray with vocals is Mike Ferencz on guitar, Craig Scott on bass, Bob Bowman on drums and Evan Mercer on keyboard.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 453-1780 or visit www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com

Policy groups to meet

The first meeting of the mayor's policy working groups in Inkster is set for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Dozier Recreation Center.

According to Dennis Black, a senior advisor in the mayor's office, "The city policies will come from the citizens participating in these workshops."

Chairmen of the respective groups will be selected he said. Current groups include; Housing; Education; Workforce Development; Economic Development, Criminal Justice Reform; Energy Production and Information Technology.

To register for the meeting, call (313) 768-6071. The Dozier Recreation Center is located at 2025 Middlebelt Road in Inkster and the meeting will take place in the multi-purpose room.

Bowling fundraiser planned

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the Romulus Library have planned a bowling fundraiser from beginning with registration at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at Romulus Lanes, 37452 West Huron River Dr. in Romulus

Bowling will begin at 8 p.m.. Tickets are $25 per person or $50 per couple which includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and a soft drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a cash bar.

Organizers said that the event is usually a sell out and urged early ticket purchase. The event is limited to the first 72 bowlers. For tickets or information, call (734)893-0694.

Ford Road

FROM PAGE 1

inconvenience for motorists but that the issue is one of safety.

"Like any project of this size, there is going to be some inconvenience for drivers ... there's no getting around it," Williams said.

"But something has to be done to increase the safety on Ford Road."

Traffic signals along Ford Road will be re-timed, state officials said, to accommodate traffic during construction and assured representatives from the Canton Downtown Development Authority that plans would consider the impact on the aesthetics along the affected area, including the public art along Ford Road, MDOT representatives said.

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